

Month, which was organized by the Hispanic Advisory Group at NASA Glenn. As employees at NASA celebrate the heritage, culture and numerous contributions of Hispanic Americans in Greater Cleveland and throughout our country, we reflect on this year's theme: "Heritage, Diversity, Integrity and Honor; The Renewed Hope of America."

Americans of Hispanic descent have served our country in numerous ways. Their rich and diverse culture has touched the life of every American and has been an invaluable component of Cleveland's diverse social fabric.

I also rise in honor of this year's keynote speaker, NASA astronaut Jose M. Hernandez, who was part of the crew aboard the space shuttle flight, *Discovery*, from liftoff on August 28, through touchdown on September 11, 2009. His leadership and expertise in the fields of chemical, computer and electrical engineering have promoted great strides in several areas of scientific study.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, of the NASA Glenn Research Center and of Astronaut, Jose Hernandez. The innumerable contributions made by Hispanic Americans have added immeasurably to NASA Glenn's unparalleled global record of success.

HONORING LAKE PARSIPPANY VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Lake Parsippany Volunteer Fire Company, District #3 located in Morris County, New Jersey, which is celebrating its 75th Anniversary.

In 1935, a group of concerned citizens, recognizing the need for fire protection in the Lake Parsippany area, began taking steps toward the formation of the Lake Parsippany Volunteer Fire Company. The Fire Company was formally organized in early September with incorporation formalities approved on November 2, 1935.

Determined to start the company off successfully, members loaned money to purchase some fire equipment and a committee was formed to investigate the possibility of purchasing a used fire truck. By December 1935, just one month after organizing, the company had acquired its first fire truck from the Livingston Fire Company. The Morris Plains Fire Association provided fire rings with which to summon members to a fire.

In the early days, meetings were held in the residences of Mr. Peter Yeager and Mr. Edward Flanagan. The Lake Parsippany Property Owners Association Club House eventually became the gathering place.

After establishing a place to meet, the next step members took was to obtain a suitable location to house the fire truck. Land was purchased from the New York Daily Mirror and construction was started on the firehouse in August 1936. Through the efforts of its members organizing dances and raffles and the help from generous contributors, the Fire Company had become a fully functioning fire company just one year after organizing.

Shortly after their first anniversary in December 1936, the Fire Company welcomed the Ladies Auxiliary of the Lake Parsippany Volunteer Fire Company. The Auxiliary performed remarkable work for the firefighters and are credited with the company's steadfast progress. The Ladies Auxiliary spent many nights supplying hot coffee in the freezing weather while the members were engaged with firefighting duties.

The passing years have seen continued improvements for the Lake Parsippany Volunteer Fire Company. In the year 2002, the company moved across the street to their new home. However, the old firehouse still continues to serve the community as a substation for the Parsippany Rescue and Recovery Unit. In 2007 the Company added a 75 ft. Pierce Ladder Truck.

The Lake Parsippany Volunteer Fire Company continues to welcome new members into an organization dedicated to protecting their community and living out their motto: "Neighbor protecting and helping neighbor."

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Lake Parsippany Volunteer Fire Company, District #3 as they celebrate 75 years of community service.

RECOGNIZING REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA'S AMBASSADOR CAROLINA BARCO

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Madam Speaker, I offer these remarks on my own behalf and on behalf of my fellow co-chairs of the Congressional Colombia Caucus which includes Representative MARIO DIAZ-BALART, Representative HENRY CUELLAR, and Representative AARON SCHOCK. As co-chairs of the Caucus, we recognize today the tremendous work and legacy of the Republic of Colombia's outgoing Ambassador to the United States, Carolina Barco. Since 2006 Ambassador Barco has been an exemplary representative of the government and people of Colombia. She has worked tirelessly to deepen the ties between the United States and the nation of Colombia, a key South American ally.

Ambassador Carolina Barco has been an effective advocate on behalf of her country ensuring that we are well aware of the many ways that the United States can support a promising vision for the future and the continued progress of our ally, to the benefit of our entire hemisphere. There has been much progress for us to support. While she has been Ambassador to the United States, we have seen evidence of the commitment of Colombia to continue efforts to reestablish and maintain government control over its territory, fight drug trafficking and terrorist activities, reduce poverty, and become a more inclusive society. Despite Colombia's decades long conflict with guerrilla forces and paramilitary groups, public security has been restored in many areas previously under siege, and a stable environment for investment has been created.

As Ambassador Barco passes the baton to her successor, we know that her country is on

strong footing and her work here in the United States has created long lasting relationships that will continue to be fruitful; though she is leaving her legacy lives on. We wish her well on her future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF HOWARD O'NEIL

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Chief O'Neil, a resident of New Jersey and dedicated member of the Neptune Township police. Chief O'Neil has recently completed 40 years and 4 months of distinguished service in the township of Neptune and will be retiring this winter. I applaud Chief O'Neil's achievements and dedication and recognize his work which serves as an inspiration to us all.

A native resident of Ocean Grove, New Jersey, Chief O'Neil's career of public service began in 1964 when he served in the New Jersey National Guard until 1970. He was then assigned to the patrol division of Neptune Township Police until 1979. During his career on the force, O'Neil earned several promotions, including Sergeant in 1981, Lieutenant in 1985, Captain in 1987, Deputy Chief of Police in 1996 and most recently, Chief of Police in 2003. Furthermore, he remained an outstanding member, former president and vice president to the Policeman Benevolent Association as well as the Fraternal Order of Police State Lodge.

Chief O'Neil's civic achievements have also helped to form numerous organizations devoted to further advancing the safety and well-being of the Monmouth County community. In 1994, he chaired a committee that established a fund that gives monetary donations to families of officers who were killed in the line of duty. In addition, he helped establish an education fund as well as a fund for healthcare for special case residents of the area. Moreover, O'Neil has served or continues to serve on multiple organizations, including the New Jersey Governor's Awards committee and Attorney General's Awards committee.

Chief O'Neil's enthusiasm for service extends well beyond his call of duty as a police officer as evident in his active community leadership. A true member and devotee to his community, he has dedicated his time to coaching numerous youth sports teams including little league, recreational basketball and soccer, and travelling boys and girls soccer. The youth and families of Neptune Township are fortunate to have benefited from Chief O'Neil's energetic service and civic participation.

Chief O'Neil has tirelessly devoted his time to his community and epitomizes what it means to give back. Madam Speaker, please join me in leading this body in acknowledgment of the extraordinary contributions of Chief Howard O'Neil. He is a greatly valued citizen of the State of New Jersey, and I am honored to recognize him today.